

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled) An I/O expansion system comprising:
a female connector for operative connection to a baseboard, and provided for receiving an add-in card having a male connector on a first edge and a notch for receipt of a retention formation of the female connector,
wherein it further includes a carriage part movable along a length of the female connector in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of insertion of the male connector in the female connector, and providing support for the retention formation.

2. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system comprising:
a female connector for operative connection to a baseboard, and provided for receiving an add-in card having a male connector on a first edge and a notch for receipt of a retention formation of the female connector,
wherein the female connector further includes a carriage part movable along a length of the female connector in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of insertion of the male connector in the female connector, and providing support for the retention formation, and
~~according to claim 1~~ wherein [[it]] the female connector further includes on a surface of the carriage part adjacent the female connector a locking formation, and on an outer surface of the female connector a plurality of cooperating locking formations spaced apart along the length of the female connector, such that the carriage part is lockable

with respect to the female connector at a plurality of positions along its length, and wherein the carriage part includes a recess in its upper surface into which in use an edge of the add-in card is received.

3. (previously presented) An I/O expansion system according to claim 2 wherein the locking formation on the carriage part is a protrusion, and the locking formations on the female connector are recesses.

4. (cancelled) An I/O expansion system according to claim 1 wherein the retention formation is pivotable between an operative position in which the retention formation is within the notch on the add-in card and acts to retain the add-in card in the female connector and an inoperative position in which the retention formation is free of the notch on the add-in card and the add-in card can be removed from the female connector, and wherein it further includes an arm connected with the retention formation for pivoting of the retention formation between the operative and inoperative positions.

5. (cancelled) An I/O expansion system according to claim 1 wherein the retention formation is hook shaped.

6. (cancelled) An I/O expansion system according to claim 1 wherein the carriage part includes an upwardly extending arm and the retention formation is an inwardly extending protrusion from the upwardly extending arm, and wherein the upwardly extending arm is resiliently deformable, and the retention formation has a cam surface on its upper side such that when the add-in card is inserted into the female connector the upwardly extending arm bends outwardly to permit the retention formation to ride

over a leading edge of the notch and then into the notch to retain the add-in card in the female connector.

7. (previously presented) An I/O expansion system according to claim 2 wherein the female connector includes a housing which supports a plurality of electrical contacts, and the co-operating locking formations spaced apart along the length of the female connector are provided on an outer surface of the housing and wherein the carriage part is substantially "U" shaped.

8. (previously presented) An I/O expansion system according to claim 2 wherein the female connector includes a housing which supports a plurality of electrical contacts, and a cover which increases the width of the female connector towards its upper surface, and the co-operating locking formations spaced apart along the length of the female connector are provided on an outer surface of the cover, and wherein the carriage part is substantially "C" shaped, and is retained on the female connector by engaging beneath the cover.

9. (cancelled) An I/O expansion system according to claim 1, further comprising an add-in card having a male connector on a first edge and a notch for receipt of a retention formation of the female connector.

10. (cancelled) A female connector specifically adapted for both operative connection to a baseboard and receipt of a male edge connector of an add-in card, wherein it includes a carriage part movable along a length of the female connector in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of insertion of the male edge connector in the female connector, and providing support for a retention formation

specifically adapted to engage in use with a formation on the add-in card to retain the male edge connector of the add-in card in the female connector.